

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 160817Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4294

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 0243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY MO MT

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER: IMPROVEMENT IN

MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MY JANUARY 15 MEETING WITH FONMIN LARAKI (OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTEL NOTAL), I INQUIRED ABOUT RECENT DECISION TO RESTORE MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS TO AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. GOM, LARAKI STRESSED, WAS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS IN THIS REGARD, BUT HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO LIBYAN OVERTURE, CONVEYED BY MALTESE PRIMIN MINTOFF DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, ON THEORY THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE LOST. MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE, AND IF KING'S ATTITUDE COULD ALTER LIBYAN ATTITUDE EVEN SLIGHTLY, SO MUCH THE BETTER. FURTHER, LARAKI NOTED, MOROCCO'S LONGSTANDING POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO BREAK RELATIONS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO LIBYAN INITIATIVE FALLS GENERALLY INTO THIS TRADITION.

2. COMMENT: FOREGOING CONFIRMS OUR BELIEF THAT MOROCCAN EXPECTATIONS RE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA NOT UNREALISTICALLY HIGH, AND WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY RADICAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONSHIP

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IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. OVER COURSE PAST YEAR, LIBYANS HAVE

BEEN GRADUALLY BUILDING UP SIZE OF THEIR EMBASSY STAFF BUT ARE
STILL MAINTAINING VERY LOW PROFILE HERE.
NEUMANN

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